THE DUMB WAITER

By Harold Pinter
Harold Pinter

- born in 1930 in East London
- began his writing career in his teens
- studied acting
Harold Pinter

- opposed war
- began writing plays in 1957
- died in 2008
1957

Some interesting facts:

• **May 15**th → Operation Grapple
• **June 27**th → link between tobacco smoking and lung cancer
• **October 30**th → government unveils plan to allow women to join the House of Lords
Influences

- Ernest Hemingway
- Franz Kafka
- Samuel Beckett
Samuel Beckett

- *Waiting for Godot*
  - Silence
  - Important character never arrives
  - Time isn't known
  - Two men, one dominant and one submissive
CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- **GUS**
  - Submissive
  - Childlike
  - Connects with audience
  - Imprisoned in routine

- **BEN**
  - Dominant
  - Silent
  - Violent
  - Sees himself as fortunate
WILSON

- Unseen Authority figure
- God-like
- Sadistic?
- Paranoid, gives tests.
SILENCE & VIOLENCE

- “Speech is a strategy designed to cover up the nakedness of silence.” - H.P.
- Silence filled with anticipation of violence
- Gus < Ben < Wilson
DUMB WAITER

- Broken Communication
- Climbing social ladder
SOCIAL CLASS

- Ben is content with given circumstances
- Gus constantly questions the “boss.”
- Cricket vs. Soccer
- Working class vs. Upper class
- Dumb Waiter scene
- Gus<Ben<Wilson
ACTING METHODS

- Pinter as former actor
- Stanislavsky method
- Goals, objectives, and obstacles
- Making choices as opposed to playing emotions
The Dumb Waiter

- Animated adaptation

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yr5aCcJ7